

people we represent we should be working together to ensure its success. We can make improvements where necessary, but we must allow full implementation to continue. Already the Affordable Care Act has changed so many lives for the better, and we must not turn our backs on the millions more who will have access to health care next year because of these reforms.

The Affordable Care Act is a tremendous achievement that will improve the lives of Americans for generations to come. This anniversary is a time to renew our commitment to completing this important work on behalf of the American people, who are counting on us to do the right thing. With each year that we move forward to implement the features of this landmark health care reform law, the stories of families not being able to gain access to affordable coverage are becoming fewer and fewer and are being replaced by stories of the success of these reforms, one family at a time, all across Vermont and all across America. I look forward to continuing to work with Vermont and with the administration as the law moves forward in its fourth year.

BRATTLEBORO REFORMER CENTENNIAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in visiting with fellow Vermonters in and around Brattleboro in southern Vermont last weekend, I appreciated the opportunity to be in town during the month The Brattleboro Reformer marked its centennial anniversary. Local newspapers serve their communities in so many vital ways, and we in Vermont are blessed to have so many that have endured and served for so long.

These are challenging times for newspapers, as newsrooms and publishers adapt to rapidly changing technologies and public preferences. The Brattleboro Reformer has been quick on its feet to meet these challenges. I join with all Vermonters in congratulating The Reformer's hard-working staff on this historic anniversary, and we wish them many more.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a recent news article about this milestone.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE BRATTLEBORO REFORMER TURNS 100
[From the Vermont Digger, March 10, 2013]
(By Randolph T. Holhut)

BRATTLEBORO—The Brattleboro Reformer celebrated its 100th anniversary as a daily newspaper with cake, coffee, and an open house for well-wishers on March 1.

For Publisher Ed Woods, the fact that a small town in Vermont has held on to its daily newspaper while other major cities have seen their daily papers cut back in publishing frequency, or close down altogether, is a testament to the uniqueness of Windham County.

"Southern Vermont is different from the rest of the country," said Woods, who has

been the Reformer's publisher since 2008. "We're providing news and information in the way that our customers request it."

That means delivering a paper-and-ink edition of the Reformer every day but Sunday, while gradually building up an audience that wants its news online.

According to the most recent circulation figures for the Reformer by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the paper's total average daily circulation was 6,756 print editions and 1,093 digital editions, or a total of 7,849 as of March 31, 2012.

For the Saturday Weekend Reformer, circulation was 8,155 print and 1,091 digital for a total of 9,246.

By comparison, in the March 31, 2007, report, total average circulation was 9,684 on weekdays and 10,709 on Saturdays.

Although print circulation is down, Executive Editor Tom D'Errico is quick to point out that the digital reach of the paper is growing.

The paper currently has 6,000 followers of its Facebook page, which D'Errico said it is using as a breaking news site that complements www.Reformer.com, and there are 1,200 subscribers to the paper's Twitter feed.

"These things didn't exist for us two and a half years ago," said Woods. "Social media is bringing our news to a new audience. The transition to digital is going to happen, but it's going to happen more slowly here." He cited the slow progress of bringing universal broadband coverage to southern Vermont, and the older population of the county that still prefers a paper-and-ink news source.

D'Errico, who became the managing editor of the Reformer in 2007, said that social media—Facebook, Twitter, and the like—has become critical to the way his paper gathers and disseminates the news. "That's how people tip us off to stories now," he said. "It's easy and instantaneous, compared to email or a phone call."

And, with a newsroom that is smaller than it used to be, it allows the four full-time reporters to cover more ground than before.

LONG HISTORY

Although the Reformer published its first daily edition on March 3, 1913, the paper had long history prior to that date.

Charles Davenport, a stalwart Democrat, started The Windham County Reformer in 1876 as a weekly paper to counter what Davenport believed was the pro-Republican bias of The Vermont Phoenix—then the dominant weekly newspaper in Brattleboro.

Howard C. Rice bought an interest in the paper from Davenport in 1905, and two years later, moved it into the American Building on Main Street—the Reformer's home for the next seven decades until it moved to its present location on Black Mountain Road in October 1981.

Few had faith that Brattleboro could support its own daily paper, but Rice eventually convinced Windham County that it could consume its news in daily bites, and like it. That began in 1913, when the Phoenix and Reformer merged. The Phoenix continued as the weekly edition of the Reformer until it was discontinued in 1955. By that point, the daily Reformer's circulation had grown from less than 2,500 to more than 7,000.

Rice stepped down as editor and publisher in 1950 and was succeeded by John S. Hooper. The Rice family continued to own the paper until 1966, when it was purchased by the Miller family, owners of The Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield, Mass.

Under the Millers, the changes came fast and frequent. Offset printing was introduced in 1969, and molten lead and Linotypes gave way to computerized typesetting and paste-up. Typewriters gave way to video display terminals in the late 1970s. The biggest

change of all, besides the move to the new plant off Putney Road, was the switch from afternoon to morning publication in 1982.

All of these changes were overseen by Norman Runnion, who started at the Reformer as Hooper's assistant in 1969 and became the managing editor in 1971.

By the time the Reformer celebrated its 75th anniversary as a daily in 1988, circulation had grown to more than 10,000. Runnion retired two years later, leaving a legacy of building what former Boston Globe editor Tom Winship once called the best small newspaper in New England.

But the next big change came in 1995, when the Miller family sold the paper to Denver-based MediaNews Group (MNG), ending more than eight decades of local ownership.

CHANGE IS CONSTANT.

In the years since the sale of the paper to MediaNews Group, the paper has made the change from analog to digital, in the design of its news pages as well as its photography.

Delivery of the news changed also. The World Wide Web went from a curiosity to a disruptive force in publishing in the space of a decade, and papers large and small have scrambled to keep up.

Meanwhile, MNG acquired the Town Crier family of free weeklies in the late 1990s, and expanded the Black Mountain Road plant to accommodate their new purchase. They also bought the Original Vermont Observer, another weekly, in the mid-2000s. The papers were ultimately merged into one weekly, and were discontinued in 2012.

But for all the turmoil of a changing industry, and changing economics, the Reformer endures. With MNG joining the Journal Register Company to form Digital First Media in 2011, there has been a greater emphasis on transforming the two newspaper companies into one online media company.

"John Paton [the CEO of Digital First] has brought to us a business model to make the transition to digital media," said Woods. "We are beginning to see the resources arrive here to make that transition. Our mission to provide the news hasn't changed, just the way we deliver the news."

And both Woods and D'Errico say they have come to realize what a humbling experience it is to run a newspaper that people still feel passionate about, and are quick to offer an opinion about.

"A lot is changing in this industry, and it is impossible not to embrace the change," said Woods. "But our core responsibility is not changing at all."

"Small-town newspapers offer something that can't be found anywhere else," said D'Errico. "While big city newspapers are struggling, our focus on local news makes us as valuable today as we were in 1913."

PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the 70th anniversary of the commissioning of Naval Air Station, NAS, Patuxent River. On April 1, 1943 the base was commissioned and the Navy Department issued the following press release:

"Naval Air Station, Patuxent, situated on a 6,500-acre tract at Cedar Point, Maryland, was commissioned today with Rear Admiral John S. McCain, U.S.N., Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics; Rear Admiral F. L. Reichmuth, U.S.N., Commandant of the Potomac River Naval Command, and Representative Landsdale G. Sasser of Maryland speaking at the commissioning exercises.

The commissioning address was made by Rear Admiral Reichmuth who turned the situation over to Commander William T. Rassieur, U.S.N., of 1429 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Naval Air Station, Patuxent, will be one of the finest and largest Navy aviation establishments in the East when construction work is completed. It will combine and concentrate flying and operating aspects of experimental work previously conducted at Naval Air Station, Anacostia, and Norfolk, and at the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia. It will serve also as the East Coast terminal for Naval Air Transport Service, now located at Norfolk.

The new station is 60 airline miles southeast of Washington, D.C. Six thousand people have been employed constructing the station, beginning work on March 1, 1942.

Facilities for both land and seaplanes have been installed, while docks also have been constructed for vessels which will handle freight in connection with activities of the air transport unit.

In addition to seaplane ramps, the field has three runways for land plane. The largest is 10,000 feet in length and 500 feet wide, while the remaining two are 6,000 feet long and 300 feet wide. Four hangars for all types of planes are among the 45 buildings of the station.

When fully staffed the station will have several thousand officers and men."

Mr. President, as noted earlier in the Navy's press release, my Grandfather then Rear Admiral McCain, was a speaker at the commissioning in 1943. In his speech he said, "I have every reason to expect that under your expert guidance this work will be done more rapidly and more efficiently, and that it will rapidly increase in scope and its effectiveness, as it must do for naval aviation to meet its present problems and to hold its proper place as an outstanding major air service of the world."

Mr. President, today NAS Patuxent River, commonly referred to as Pax River, hosts over 17,000 people, including active-duty servicemembers, civil-service employees, defense contractor employees, and military dependents. NAS Patuxent River is home to the Naval Air Systems Command, NAVAIR, Headquarters, Air Test Wing Atlantic, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Scientific Development Squadron 1, Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 20, Rotary Wing Test Squadron 21, and Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23.

For nearly 70 years, the dedicated men and women of NAS Pax River have made the impossible possible, turning theory into experiment and experiment into operational capability. The dedicated and skilled workforce of NAS Patuxent River has made innumerable contributions to the aerospace industry, the Naval Aviation Enterprise, and the economic and national security of the United States. Their attention to

detail is directly reflected in the record of excellence of United States Naval Aviation. During both war and peace their meticulous and exacting work to support the defense of our Nation has continued, ensuring, as my grandfather expected, that naval aviation meets its present problems and holds its proper place as an outstanding major air service of the world.

While the historic sites, natural resources, and technology contained within its gates make it a unique destination; it is undoubtedly the people of Naval Air Station Patuxent River and their distinguished service that make it an irreplaceable National asset. On April 1, 2013, they will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the base commissioning. In recognition of this major milestone I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

REMEMBERING CASSANDRA WOODS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, I, my staff, and the entire State of Michigan lost someone very special. Cassandra Woods, my longtime State staff director, passed away after fighting cancer for two decades.

Cassandra Woods was one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known.

She became the heart and soul of my Michigan offices. After beginning as an intern more than 30 years ago, she served as my State director for the last 12. She led a staff of 25 in 7 offices around the State into becoming a cohesive team serving the public.

In countless efforts to bring growth and hope to our people, she pressed forward and never wavered—from riverfront projects, to M-1 Rail on Woodward Avenue, to Focus:HOPE, to our effort to bring a baseball academy for kids adjacent to the old Tiger Stadium field, and oh so much more in so many places around our state.

She was an invaluable source of advice and counsel to me and to my Washington staff. She represented me at public events and in meetings with State and local officials. All the while, she kept adding her energy and her way of looking at life to her own personal missions.

Cassandra brought to her family and to our community her unique combination of great inner strength and an outward gentleness, an iron will with a smiling demeanor, a way of being direct and blunt in an engaging and positive way, imparting tough love and discipline with compassion and almost always with that wonderful laugh of hers.

Cassandra's legendary courage in her two-decade battle with cancer and the way she inspired others to take on that adversity with fierce calm left an indelible impact on the countless people whom she lifted up.

I am fortunate enough in my job to meet some incredibly brave people. I have traveled many times to Afghani-

stan and other places where American troops are in harm's way. I have met young men and women who have done incredible things, shown unfathomable courage, faced dangers so great that, had they simply turned and fled in terror, none of us could really blame them. And I have heard and remembered the stories of those who chose not to flee, knowing that by standing their ground, they would risk or even give up their lives.

Cassandra Woods' life was worthy of a different kind of awe. John F. Kennedy once wrote, "Without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men have lived." Cassandra had an unflinching courage to live and to pass that courage on to others. She became a tireless and effective advocate for cancer patients. After defeating cancer for the first time almost 20 years ago, she felt a responsibility, with God's help, to assist others, in her words, to "come through the fire and come out whole."

Her life-affirming commitment was present when she was on the frontlines a few years ago in the electoral battle to permit stem cell research in Michigan and, of course, in her joyous activities in her church.

When Barb and I visited with Cassandra a few days before she passed away, she reminisced about many things. More than anything else, she spoke to us about her love of her family, her mother and her children. With special passion, she spoke of her two grandchildren: Justin, with whom she spent so much time and whom she took so much joy in watching grow; and Bianca, who slept in Cassandra's bed after the two of them would sing songs together to help Bianca fall asleep.

Cassandra applied a sense of family to our community. One Christmas, the staff, who loved her so much and whom she loved so much, was discussing how long to close our offices over the holidays. Some wanted our offices closed for the whole week between Christmas and New Year's. Cassandra wouldn't hear of such a thing. Christmas is a time of year when some of Senator LEVIN's constituents need our help the most, she said. We shouldn't close the office more than a day or two. And that was the end of the discussion. It was so typical of Cassandra; she was always thinking of others who might need help.

The poet Dylan Thomas urged us not to go "gentle into that good night" but rather to "rage against the dying of the light." Cassandra Woods chose another way to leave us—by going gently, guided by her brave heart and her abiding faith and with the same grace and confidence that marked her life, a life so full of a light that will not die but will shine always in the hearts of all of us who loved her.